



Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

OCTOBER 2013

The Amherst Urban Forestry Program: A Model for Massachusetts Communities

By Rick Harper

Though regard for urban forests and the practice of community forestry has garnered widespread support in recent years, there is great variation in many New England communities regarding local resources and the infrastructure that is in place to support public urban forest management. While some communities, like the larger, more populated cities and their affiliated suburbs, may staff several members with expertise in urban tree management, many of the smaller towns and villages do not have paid, full-time employees to fill these roles. Consequently, the role of Tree Warden – an individual that is mandated by **Massachusetts law to care for a community's trees** – is often filled on a part-time or even volunteer basis. This is not the case in Amherst, however.

In 2011, the Town of Amherst's Public Works Department opened a new full-time position titled 'Director of Trees and Grounds.' This position encompasses oversight for the green spaces throughout the Town of Amherst, including the parks, cemeteries, commons, and, of course, street trees. Alan Snow filled this vacancy. Though new as a formal town employee, Snow had already been serving the community as the volunteer Tree Warden since

Town of Amherst to plant 2,000 new community trees.

According to Snow, "Through a lot of hard work and cooperation, some key resources have been identified and set aside to fund this project. While this is very exciting for us, it also means that we need to be very efficient with how we



One of many streets in the Town of Amherst lined with mature trees.

use our limited equipment and staffing resources as we try to **get the job done.**" To support his staffing needs for this project, Snow hired two interns from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The interns sited, planted, and watered new trees for over five months in 2013 and received a salary, college credit, and valuable work experience. This fall, they are continuing their work with Snow on a part-time basis.

Snow cites the Amherst Shade Tree Committee as being one of the key groups that has been solidly behind this effort, raising awareness and lending its strong voice of support.

An active and diverse group of volunteers, the Amherst Shade Tree Committee organizes local tree planting efforts in the Town of Amherst throughout the growing season, as well as a spring Arbor Day Poster Contest through the local schools. The Shade Tree Committee has also established a Shade Tree Fund where the money **that it collects through donations and from the town's**



North Pleasant Street, Amherst town center.

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2007. "Although I still continue to function as the Tree Warden," said Snow, "I now have a wide array of other responsibilities and initiatives that keep me busy on a full-time basis." One such initiative that members of **Amherst's Public Works Department** are currently engaged in is a large, multi-year street tree planting campaign. Critical to this effort has been the \$612,000.00 allocation by the

(Continued on page 2)

By Rick Harper

tree replacement policy is used to offset the costs of planting new specimens. The replacement policy places an inch-per-inch replacement cost on healthy public shade trees that need to be removed in Amherst. According to Snow, **“Successful urban forest management moves forward at the local level only through cooperation and help from key groups like these.”**

In addition to working with local groups of citizens like the members of a Shade Tree Committee, Tree Wardens throughout the Commonwealth often interact with other professionals, such as municipal engineers and specialists in other relevant departments like planning, parks, or the highway division. A new group in Amherst that Snow regularly finds himself in communication with is the Business Improvement Dis-



Alan Snow and Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee Chair, Hope Crolius, planting a tree as part of the Shade Tree Committee's First Saturday Tree Planting Program.

trict (BID). **“The BID has funded several important incentives to green the downtown streetscape of Amherst,” Snow stated. “This sort of beautification is well worth the investment, as it receives a lot of visibility by town residents.”**

Another key component enabling successful urban forest management in Amherst is the technical resources that the Town of Amherst has invested in. The Information and Technology Department maintains GIS/GPS-based records that include mapped locations of the urban trees. Having access to this inventory data in this format readily enables the identification of an existing tree or the location of a vacancy where a street tree may then be planted. Snow also hopes to further his relationship with the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts, located right in Amherst. Plans to analyze existing street tree inventory using the i-Tree software suite to better determine the environmental services of trees and to further inventory unmapped community trees are just a couple initiatives currently underway with the students and faculty members at the University.

It is obvious that the investment in skilled personnel and technology and emphasis on environmental stewardship has enabled the Town of Amherst to successfully maintain thriving green spaces and its community trees. Already a Tree City USA for 26 years running, the community is poised to continue this good standing for years to come.

Picks and Shovels

The next Amherst Neighborhood Tree Steward (ANTS) Planting will take place Saturday, October 5, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Blue Hills Road. (Rain date October 6.)

Merzbach, Scott. Amherst Tree Warden Alan Snow Gets State Honor. 20 January 2013. *Hampshire Daily Gazette*. <http://www.gazettenet.com/home/3894967-95/snow-tree-town-trees>.

Merzbach, Scott. Restoring the Canopy Amherst Begins Planting 2,000 Trees. 23 June 2013. *Hampshire Daily Gazette*. <http://www.gazettenet.com/news/townbytown/amherst/7082331-95/restoring-the-canopy-amherst-begins-planting-2000-trees>.

Editorial. In Time, Having it Made in the Shade. 27 June 2013. *Hampshire Daily Gazette*. <http://www.gazettenet.com/home/7197907-95/editorial-in-time-having-it-made-in-the-shade>.

Nov. 1: Deadline for DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants

For more information, go to: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html> or contact Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966.

Species Spotlight—Japanese zelkova, *Zelkova serrata*

By Mollie Freilicher
MA-DCR
Community Action Forester



A member of the elm family, Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) is native to Japan, Korea, China, and Taiwan, where it grows in mixed woodlands, often on the southeastern side of mountains. In Asia, it is also known by the common name keyaki or keaki. It is a favored food for wildlife, including Japanese flying squirrels (*Petaurista leucogenys*) and Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*). Outside of its native range, Japanese zelkova is a popular

landscape tree and is known for being a tough tree for urban settings. It was introduced to the United States in 1862 and is often a tree urban foresters and managers select as a substitute for American elm. (Japanese zelkova is still susceptible to Dutch elm disease, but less so than the American elm.) Japanese zelkova is hardy to Zone Five, and we see it planted throughout Massachusetts. It is a medium-sized tree, reaching heights of 50 to 70 feet, with a spread of 50 to 60 feet. Vase-shaped when young, the crown matures into a rounded form. The leaves, dark green in color, are one-and-a-quarter to three inches long, alternate, simple, and elliptical, with crenate or serrate margins. In the fall, the leaves change and may be yellow, russet, purple, or shades in between. The flowers of Japanese zelkova are monoecious and bloom in April, before the leaves. They are small and not showy or ornamentally important. The fruit is a drupe that matures in late summer. The twigs zigzag and are reddish brown and slender. The buds are conical, pointy, and diverge greatly from the stem. The bark of Japanese zelkova is gray, with

prominent lenticels when young, but as the tree matures, the gray exfoliates into reddish patches. When planting Japanese zelkova, select a site with lots of sun and well-drained, moist, fertile soil. It is adaptable to a range of pH. Once established, Japanese zelkova is tolerant of pollution and drought. Japanese zelkova makes an ideal specimen tree for parks and lawns and can also be used as a street tree.



landscapes, around temples. In Asia, Japanese zelkova is an important timber tree due to its strength and hardness, as well as its ornamental characteristics that have lead sculptors and artists to favor the wood. The wood, with properties similar to teak and white oak, has myriad uses, from building and maintaining temples in Asia, to fine furniture, to carvings and woodwork, to shipbuilding. Here, in the U.S., we utilize Japanese zelkova as a street tree where it is a tough, yet stately, member of the urban forest.



Photos: Leaf, twig bark, flower, and fruit: Virginia Tech; Form: Mollie Freilicher



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department of Conservation

Growing Greener—in Bedford

The Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC), along with the town Tree Warden, has begun the process of conducting a volunteer-led inventory using the i-Tree program *Streets*. BARC and the Tree Warden met with the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program to hear about i-Tree and to learn how to set up a project for Bedford. Since then, they have conducted a pilot inventory, and they will carry out the complete street tree inventory in the spring of 2014. For information about how your community can conduct an i-Tree inventory, contact Mollie Freilicher, mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us or 413-577-2966 or attend the 2013 DCR Tree Steward Training, which will include an extended i-Tree session with David Bloniarz from the U.S. Forest Service. (See page four for dates and registration information or go to: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/branching-out-additional-programs.html>.)

Growing on Trees



Chapel Hill, NC—
August 9, 2013—
Urban trees are a critical capital investment for a city, with concrete benefits. They improve air quality, save energy, help manage storm water

and water quality, and offer a variety of health and psychological benefits to residents. But cities struggle to pay for the maintenance and improvement of their urban forests and ensure that urban forestry programs are financed in a sustainable way. Lexi Kay at the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina suggests assessment districts, bonds, a parcel tax, and more ideas for funding urban forestry.

According to Kay, at the national level, there may be limited funding for urban forestry through the U.S. Forest Service. In 2007, \$30.1 million was appropriated to the 50 state Urban and Community Forestry programs. In addition, widespread decreased funding and competition with other public services is likely the greatest challenge to urban forest advocates today.

This leaves room for states and municipalities to get creative in financing their urban forestry initiatives. Managing the urban forest is expensive. According to a [2007 American Public Works Association report](#), almost 75% of spending on urban forests goes toward maintenance and management. That leaves a small portion for actually planting new trees.

Kay suggests several options for cities that want to improve their urban forestry budgets. Based on some inno-

vative thinking in San Francisco, she suggests assessment districts, bonds, a parcel tax, and more:

- Establish a Landscape and Lighting Assessment District, a tool used widely throughout California to fund public improvements, including street trees, street lights, and recreational facilities.
- Create a Parcel Tax, or a special tax levied to provide specific benefits. The parcel tax would create a dedicated funding stream for street trees.
- Issue a General Obligation Bond that would be retired through the general tax revenues that could be used to fund the capital costs of tree planting and establishment, but could not be used for maintenance.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for urban forestry programs. In addition to the above, Kay suggests other financing techniques, including financing instruments such as foundation grants, special assessments, and capital improvement budgets. Potential revenue streams may include some fees, utility bill donations, tax incentives, carbon trading, and more. [Read Kay's complete article.](#)

Source: Alexandra Kay, "[Financing Urban Forestry](#)," UNC Environmental Finance Center (August 9, 2013)

Join a discussion of this article at [The Grove](#).

Seen in the ACTrees newsletter.

Does your community have a creative way it finances its urban forestry program? Let us know! [Take our one-question survey by clicking here.](#)

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.

Growing on Trees

A Message from Eric

Hello Folks - I am writing to let you know that I am leaving my position as the DCR Urban Forestry Coordinator. I have accepted a position with National Grid as part of their Vegetation Strategy team and I will be focusing on issues related to Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests. I am excited about this new opportunity to advance my career. I want to say to you all that it has been a distinct honor to work with each of you over the years. I have learned so much from you individually and from the wonderful collective that is the Massachusetts urban and community forestry community. I don't think it is a show of conceit to state that together we have accomplished a great many good works. I thank you all for your encouragement and support over the years and for your unwavering dedication to the forests and trees of our state. I consider myself blessed to have worked with you. My last day at DCR will be October 11th. The program will be left in the very capable hands of Mollie Freilicher who, I am certain, will take it to new heights.

Thanks Again All and I wish you nothing but the best. —Eric

Good luck Eric! Thank you for all your hard work for urban and community forestry in Massachusetts. There is no space large enough for all the thanks and appreciation. We will miss you!

Webcast Series from the Ecological Landscape Association

ELA is launching a *free webinar series* on sustainable landscaping for professionals beginning on September 17.

The interactive webinars will be taught by experts from across the country who are known for their expertise in specific areas of sustainability. Topics covered include a deeper look into soils, native and invasive plants, water management, designing a sustainable landscape, sustainable maintenance, organic lawn care, the "good business" of sustainable landscaping, and sustainability as a healthy landscape option.

The series is presented by the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA), in collaboration with the Midwest Ecological Landscape Alliance (MELA), the Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Council (CCLC), and EcoLandscape California (ELC).

Sign Up Now for Upcoming Free Webinars:

October 30, 2013: Organic Lawns: An Overview of Sustainable Turfgrass Management
Chip Osborne
Preview content and speaker and [register here](#).

November 12, 2013: Soil Amendments
Michael J. Curry
Preview content and speakers and [register here](#).

December 11, 2013: Sustainability Makes Cents
Erik Ringstrand and Brandon Losey
Preview content and speakers and [register here](#).



DCR Tree Steward Training—Register Today!

October 25-26, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

The 2013 DCR Tree Steward Training will take place Friday, October 25, to Saturday, October 26, at the Harvard Forest in Petersham.

At this year's session: learn about tree biology, benefits, preserving trees during construction, tree planting, i-Tree (extended session), working with your utility arborist, pruning, tree ID (extended session), and funding urban forestry programs and

participate in a roundtable discussion on working with trees and people in your community. We'll have a mix of indoor and outdoor sessions.

TST Registration Materials are available online: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/branching-out-additional-programs.html>. Deadline to register: October 10.

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Growing on Trees

From ACTrees

Photo Contest

Grab your camera and document urban forestry volunteers in action during National NeighborWoods Month. Send us your most dramatic, artistic, and heartfelt photographs that capture the NeighborWoods spirit of volunteerism.

PRIZE: \$500

DEADLINE: November 15, 2013

In addition to the prize, the winning photo will be featured on our websites and on future ACTrees and NeighborWoods® promotional materials. Photos can be landscape or profile, action or portrait, individual or group, etc. Before submitting, please be sure to read the contest [guidelines](#). We welcome all entries, but are especially eager to see photos depicting subjects like:

The spirit of volunteerism

Tree planting, mulching, or pruning in action

Use of National NeighborWoods Month materials

Family and youth

Multi-generational

Trees in neighborhood/residential landscapes

You may submit as many photos as you want—in fact, send a bunch! Just make sure to include:

Your high resolution image, preferably in color and in JPEG or TIFF format

Your full name(s) and name of your organization

Organization address, email, and phone number

Caption or picture subject/title

A one-sentence description of the moment and event presented in the picture

How your picture features NeighborWoods® (if not immediately evident)

Submit your pictures by November 15, 2013, to Programs@ACTrees.org with the subject line:

“NeighborWoods Photo Contest.”

Please note that by submitting a photo, you agree to allow ACTrees to use that photo on its website and for future communications and presentation purposes. Read all the Photo Contest Rules [here](#).

Go to <http://neighborhoodmonth.org/grants-prizes/photo-contest/> for more information.

NeighborWoods Month News

[Join in the Celebration of Trees--October is National NeighborWoods® Month](#)

Register your tree event with NeighborWoods. Be a part of the 2013 national action campaign to celebrate and plant community trees! Register all of your October tree plantings, tree workshops, urban greening days, invasive removals, and other tree events at www.NeighborWoodsMonth.org. It's easy to register to be part of National NeighborWoods Month and to demonstrate the great work your organization is doing. To help plan and promote your tree activities, ACTrees is excited to offer an assortment of valuable, free resources. Together, we can show that people care about trees and are taking concrete actions to improve our urban forests, from coast to coast. Don't miss out! [Register all your tree events](#).

Eric Toensmeier Opens Up on the Role of Urban Food Forests

Washington, DC—September 9, 2013—Eric Toensmeier has studied useful plants and food forests since 1990 and is the author of *Perennial Vegetables* and co-author of *Edible Forest Gardens with Dave Jacke*. **Eric's current research is on perennial farming practices, including agroforestry, that fight climate change by capturing carbon.** In our interview, Eric shares his insights on the value of fruit and nut trees as part of a community garden, the role of urban food forests, and the impact of trees and urban agriculture on communities. [Read ACTrees's interview with Toensmeier at ACTrees](#) and [Learn more and get resources to establish a food forest in your community from ACTrees Community GrovesSM program](#).

The Language of Trees— Lecture by Richard Higgins

Read about an interesting lecture by writer and editor Richard Higgins. In it, he explores Henry David Thoreau's passion for trees, how Thoreau saw them, and his imaginative response to them.

Read more about the lecture, how to host it, and see some of Higgins's photographs in his brochure describing the lecture: [Thoreau and the Language of Trees](#).

Growing on Trees

47th Annual Conference: New England Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (NEC-ISA) November 3-5, 2013

Pre-Conference Events

Sunday, November 3, 2012

9-12 - Trek des Trees

1-4 - Aerial Rescue Workshop with Mark Chisholm

Conference Schedule

Sunday, November 3, 2012

6:30-8:30pm - Opening Reception, Crowne Plaza

Monday, November 4, 2013—6 ISA CREDITS

General Sessions (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

8:00-8:30 - NEC-ISA Business Meeting

8:30-8:45 - Conference Welcome

8:45-9:45 - Keynote Speaker, Peter Gerstenberger - "Partnering for Professionalism"

9:45-10:15 - Break with Exhibitors

10:15-11:15 - John Ball - "Safety in Arboriculture"

11:15-12:15 - Mark Chisholm - "Systematic Crane Work"

12:30-1:30 - Awards Ceremony & Luncheon

1:30-2:30 - Guy Meilleur - "Retrenchment Pruning of Hollow Trees"

2:30-3:00 - BREAK, EXHIBITORS

3:00-4:00 - Jamie Goddard - "Ropes, Ropes, Ropes"

4:00-5:00 - Mike Dunn - "So You Want to Start a Tree Business?"

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 - Breakout Sessions - Commercial - 4 ISA CREDITS (8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

8:00-9:00 - Guy Meilleur - "Using the New A300 Root and Soil Standards"

9:00-10:00 - TBA

10:00-10:30 - Break with Exhibitors

10:30-11:30 - Eric Whipple, Dan Mello and Tchukki Andersen

"NEC ISA SRT Workshop Overview"

11:30-12:30 - Brian Kane - "Rigging Forces and the Results of Break Tests"

Utility/Municipal—4 ISA CREDITS (8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

8:00-9:00 - Jim Maloney, National Grid, "Myths and Misconceptions of Line Clearance"

9:00-10:00 - Carol Bradford-Roe - "Mentoring in Arboriculture"

10:00-10:30 - Break with Exhibitors

10:30-11:30 - Bill Conn -

11:30-12:30 - Colleen Teerling - "Emerald Ash Borer"

1:00-4:00 - ISA Certified Arborist Exam

*Final speaker lineup still being determined

Registration and more information is available on the NEC-ISA website: <http://newenglandisa.org>

department of Conservation and Recreation

Inspect, Correct, and Reject Defective Nursery Rootballs



Circling roots contributed to this untimely blowdown.

<http://www.deeprroot.com/blog/blog-entries/pass-it-on-inspect-correct-and-reject-defective-nursery-rootballs>.

Seen in TreeLink News.

Planting season is upon us! Check out this [brief blog post](http://www.deeprroot.com/blog/blog-entries/pass-it-on-inspect-correct-and-reject-defective-nursery-rootballs) on DeepRoot.com for how to correct and avoid nursery stock with girdling roots.

There are some great photos illustrating compromised and healthy root systems of nursery plants. Read the blog at: <http://www.deeprroot.com/blog/blog-entries/pass-it-on-inspect-correct-and-reject-defective-nursery-rootballs>.

NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Upcoming Programs

All meetings are at 6:45 p.m. on first Fridays of each month at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, in Haller Lecture Hall (Room 102), Geological Museum, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138. (Enter the door to the right of the Harvard Museum of Natural History entrance. Date exceptions: First Fridays of September, January, May; field trips, and "away" meetings.)

October 4

"Deer, Forests, and People: Understanding and Managing Socioecological Systems"

Tom Rawinski, Botanist, USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH

November 1

"Ginkgo: An Evolutionary and Cultural Biography"

Dr. Peter Crane, Carl W. Knobloch, Jr., Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Professor of Botany, Yale University, New Haven, CT

December 6

"Conifer Swamps of Central and Western Massachusetts"

Glenn Motzkin, botanist/ecologist

For the complete schedule go to <http://www.rhodora.org/>.

Growing on Trees

This 380-year-old Tree is Still Bearing Fruit

By [Sarah Laskow](#)



Image: [USDA](#)

In the 1630s, a pear tree went into the ground in Massachusetts. It was planted, the story goes, by John Endicott, the Puritan governor of the state. By 1852, it was already being heralded as **“probably the oldest cultivated fruit-bearing tree in New England.”**

By now, it’s almost certainly the oldest cultivated fruit-bearing tree in all of North America. It’s survived plenty of close calls, [as the USDA reports](#):

In 1934, when the tree was just over 300 years old, it was nearly demolished by another hurricane, but again it re-grew from the twisted trunk. The tree had a run-in with vandals in 1964, who chopped off all the branches and cut the trunk off 6 feet above the ground. And again it re-sprouted.

But it’s still alive — and still making pears. Not that the fruit is so good, reportedly. [Inhabitat writes](#): Not only is the Endicott Pear still bearing fruit 383 years **after it was first planted, but throughout the centuries it’s** been recognized for its historic value by poets, historians, and even Presidents. The tree was already old in 1809, when John Adams received a special delivery of its fruit — which has been described as tart and good for baking pies, but not for eating straight off the tree.

Or, as the USDA says:

The fruit is of no particular consequence, according to U.P. Hedrick. It is medium in size, unattractive, and coarse-textured.

Well you’re not exactly Angelina Jolie yourself, U.P. Hedrick. Jeez.

When Endicott planted it, he supposedly said: “I hope the tree will love the soil of the old world and no doubt when we have gone the tree will still be alive.” It did, it is, and it’ll probably outlive us all.

From [Grist.org](#).

News

400-Year Study Finds Northeast Forests Resilient, Changing

September 5, 2013 — A joint Harvard-Smithsonian study released today in the journal *PLOS ONE* reveals how much -- and how little -- Northeastern forests have changed after centuries of intensive land use.

A hike through today's woods will reveal the same types of trees that a colonial settler would have encountered 400 years ago. But the similarities end there. Jonathan Thompson, research associate at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and lead author of the new study, explains, "If you only looked at a tree species list, you'd have the impression that Northeast forests haven't changed. But once you start mapping the trees, and counting them up, a different picture emerges." Thompson adds, "In some ways the forest is completely transformed." To draw these conclusions, Thompson and his colleagues compared colonial-era tree records to modern US Forest Service data across a nine-state area stretching from Pennsylvania to Maine. Their results show stark contrasts between pre-colonial forests and today. Maples have exploded across the Northeast, their numbers increasing by more than 20 percent in most towns. Other tree types have declined sharply. Beeches, oaks, and chestnuts show the most pronounced loss -- big trouble, Thompson notes, for wildlife that depend on tree nuts for winter survival. Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#) or download the original scientific paper from [PLOS One](#).

Chicopee Adds More Money for Tree Inventory

By [Jeanette DeForge, The Republican](#)

Chicopee – August 22, 2013--A project to [inventory all the trees](#) in the city has doubled in cost after officials learned there are far more trees than originally believed. Early in the year the city received a \$23,000 Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban Community Forestry Grant to inventory the location, type, and condition of all the trees in the city. The information will be filed on a Global Positioning System so it can be easily accessed. But after about half the project was finished, the grant money ran out. City officials extended the contract with Davey Resource Group to allow an additional \$38,500 from the forestry department account to be used to finish the inventory. Read the complete story at [The Republican](#).



News

One Tree's Architecture Reveals Secrets of a Forest
 Aug. 6, 2013 — Behind the dazzling variety of shapes and forms found in trees hides a remarkably similar architecture based on fundamental, shared principles, University of Arizona ecologists have discovered. Researchers in the University of Arizona's department of ecology and evolutionary biology have found that despite differences in appearance, trees across species share remarkably similar architecture and can tell scientists a lot about an entire forest. Just by looking at a tree's branching pattern, it turns out, scientists can gather clues about how it functions -- for example, how much carbon dioxide it exchanges with the atmosphere or how much water transpires through its leaves -- regardless of the tree's shape or species. The researchers' results, published in the August issue of the scientific journal *Ecology Letters*, have important implications for models used by scientists to assess how trees influence ecosystems across the globe. Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#).

Increase in Woodpecker Populations Linked to Feasting on Emerald Ash Borer

The scourge of forests, the emerald ash borer, or EAB, is usually described with words like "destructive" and "pest." A recent study based on data collected by citizen scientists suggests that one more adjective might apply, at least from a bird's perspective: "delicious." In a study published this week in the journal *Biological Invasions*, U.S. Forest Service entomologist Andrew Liebhold and Cornell University scientist Walter Koenig and others document how an EAB invasion fueled a population boom for four species of birds in the Detroit area. The four species of birds considered in the study "Effects of the [emerald ash borer](#) invasion on four [species of birds](#)" included three woodpeckers that are known to forage on EAB-infested ash trees -- the downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker -- as well as the white-breasted nuthatch, a common bark-gleaning species that is also a potential predator of EAB. All four species are cavity-nesters and also stand to benefit from an increase in nesting habitat as trees are killed by EAB. Read more at [Phys.org](#).

Pre-War Insect Hunters Help to Save Our Pollinators

August 22, 2013 — Maps made more than seventy years ago and records collected by amateur naturalists between the World Wars are providing new clues about declining pollinator numbers, ecologists have found. By showing which land use changes have driven pollinator declines over the past 100 years, the research reveals how we could ensure future land use benefits these vital insects. Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#).

Group Seeks to Reclaim City's Forests

Volunteers work to save wooded lots from neglect, development

July 21, 2013—A forest grows in Govans. As traffic rumbles by on busy York Road, cardinals flit about in a shady grove of trees sandwiched between a CVS drugstore and the Govans-Boundary Parish United Methodist Church. In a city where some neighborhoods are practically treeless, Baltimore is surprisingly rich in forests like this one. They're not that big, most of them, or maybe much to look at right now. Many are choked with brambles and littered with trash and debris. But a new survey has found Baltimore harbors nearly 2,300 forested tracts of at least a fifth of an acre in size. They're oases of green that offer myriad benefits to urban residents, say experts, including cleaner air and water, habitat for birds and wildlife, and even edible plants. Yet they're at risk of being lost through neglect and a lack of legal protection from development, say advocates. Read the full story at [The Baltimore Sun](#).

Approval of Shade Tree Bylaw in Winchester

By Brenda J. Buote

August 31, 2013—Attorney General Martha Coakley has **approved the town's amended bylaw on public shade trees**, according to Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon. Town Meeting members in April approved the addition **of a new section to Chapter 18 of the town's bylaws to protect public shade trees. The bylaw defines public shade trees as "all trees planted within a public way or on the boundaries thereof."** Language included in the new section requires anyone who wants to remove or prune a public shade tree to submit a written request to **the town's tree warden, who will then hold a public hearing on the issue.** Any person who asks that a tree be removed must also pay for the work — including expenses related to any required legal advertising, police traffic details, and inspection of the tree by an arborist — and cover the cost of planting replacement trees. The full story is available for [BostonGlobe.com](#) subscribers.

On the Horizon

- October National NeighborWoods Month www.actrees.org
Oct 1 Deadline for Intent to Apply for [DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants](http://www.massgreencareers.org/)
Oct 3 Massachusetts Green Career Conference, Marlborough, MA, <http://www.massgreencareers.org/>
Oct 4 Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam, Elm Bank, Wellesley, <http://www.massarbor.org>
Oct 4-5 Splicing workshop at Yale Cordage, New England Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, www.newenglandisa.org
Oct 22 Tree Campus USA Event in Worcester celebrating Holy Cross, Becker College, and Worcester State University

Oct 25-26 Massachusetts Tree Steward Training, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA—[Register today!](#)

- Nov 1 Deadline for Application for [DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants](http://www.massgreencareers.org/)
Nov 3-5 New England Chapter-International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Warwick, RI, <http://www.newenglandisa.org/>
Nov 4-5 Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, <http://www.urban-forestry.com/>

- Nov 4-5 The Nature Conservancy Continental Dialogue, Pittsburgh, PA, <http://www.arborday.org/shopping/pcf/2013/event-natureconservancy.cfm>
Nov 5 ISA Exam, Warwick, RI, www.newenglandisa.org
Nov 5 ACTrees Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, <http://actrees.org/>
Nov 6-7 Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, www.arborday.org
Nov 8 ISA Exam, Orono, ME, www.newenglandisa.org
Dec 4-7 American Society of Consulting Arborists Annual Conference, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT, www.asca-consultants.org
Dec 31 Deadline: Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA Applications
Jan 14-15 Mass Tree Wardens 101st Annual Conference, Sturbridge, MA, www.massstreewardens.org

Good luck Eric!
We'll miss you!

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Deval Patrick, Governor

Richard Sullivan, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

John P. Murray, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

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If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact [Mollie Freilicher](mailto:Mollie.Freilicher@state.ma.us) or click [here](#).

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